

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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TAGS: TECH, ENRG, OTRA

SUBJ: RODOT, CNRS, VISIT TO ERDA
FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT QUOTE STATE 126269 P 012135Z JUN 77
REFERENCE: (A) STATE 40136, (B) PARIS 7982, (C) ERDA/CNRS
SOLAR MOU OF 05/07/76 (D) ROME 3082

1. ON APRIL 22, CNRS DIRECTOR OF SOLAR ENERGY RESEARCH
RODOT, ACCOMPANIED BY VICE-DIRECTOR CLAVERIE, HEAD OF
SOLAR PLANT PROJECT TEAM ETIEVANT AND AND DIRECTOR OF
ODEILLO LAB PEUBE MET WITH ERDA OFFICIALS AT HQ. FRENCH
PROVIDED MORNING REVIEW OF CNRS AND NATIONAL SOLAR ENERGY
PROGRAM, FOLLOWED BY ERDA REVIEW IN AFTERNOON OF US R & D
PROGRAMS IN HEATING AND COOLING, CENTRAL RECEIVER SYSTEMS,
AND PHOTOVOLTAICS. ATTENDEES DISCUSSED DETAILS OF
FRENCH AND U.S. NATIONAL PROGRAMS.

2. FRENCH SUGGESTED FOLLOWING AREAS FOR POSSIBLE
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COLLABORATION (IN ORDER OF U.S. PROGRAMMATIC INTEREST):
GLARE/FLINT SAFETY PROBLEM, TESTING OF PARABOLIC DISH
COLLECTORS, TESTING OF FLUIDS UTILIZED FOR HEAT TRANSFER,
AND WIND EFFECTS ON RECEIVER PERFORMANCE. IN ADDITION
THERE IS U.S. INTEREST IN COOPERATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT
OF FIXED SPHERICAL REFLECTOR-MOVABLE ABSORBER SOLAR THERMAL
POWER SYSTEMS.

3. ERDA OFFICIALS AGREED TO CONSIDER PROPOSED COOPERATION BUT MADE NO COMMITMENTS. ALL FRENCH SUGGESTIONS, HOWEVER ARE OF PROGRAMMATIC INTEREST, ESPECIALLY GLARE/GLINT STUDY, WHICH WAS DISCUSSED PREVIOUSLY AND WILL LIKELY PROCEED.

4. EMBASSY SHOULD NOTE THAT WHILE WE GENERALLY HOLD POSITIVE VIEW TOWARD ENERGY TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION WITH FRANCE ESPECIALLY WHERE TECHNICAL CIRCUMSTANCES MAKE SUCH COOPERATION OF SIGNIFICANT BENEFIT TO THE U.S., WE ARE NOT PREPARED AT THIS TIME TO MOVE AHEAD WITH BROAD, GENERALIZED BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS. WE REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT THE FRENCH WILL RECONSIDER THE BENEFITS OF DIRECT PARTICIPATION IN IEA R & D PROGRAMS, BECAUSE IN ADDITION TO POLITICAL FACTORS, SUCH PARTICIPATION IN A MULTILATERAL TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE MAKES THE MOST EFFICIENT USE OF OUR LIMITED RESOURCES FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES. TO THE EXTENT THAT WE BROADEN OUR BILATERAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY ARRANGEMENTS WITH FRANCE, WE MAY BE REMOVING ANY INCENTIVE FOR THAT COUNTRY TO PARTICIPATE IN IEA PROGRAMS.

5. EMBASSY, IN TRANSMITTING ERDA REACTION AND FOLLOW-UP SUGGESTIONS TO CNRS, SHOULD BE CAREFUL TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN THOSE POTENTIAL COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES THAT ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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NOT NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THE IEA AND THOSE ACTIVITIES NOW UNDER WAY OR OF INTEREST IN THE IEA CONTEXT (SEE PARA 6). IN RESPECT TO LATTER, EMBASSY SHOULD POINT OUT THAT WHILE WE WOULD WELCOME JOINT WORK WITH FRENCH, WE WOULD NOT WISH TO USE SCARCE RESOURCES TO DUPLICATE OR OVERLAP ONGOING MULTILATERAL COOPERATION.

6. WORK NOW UNDER WAY OR BEING CONSIDERED IN THE IEA INCLUDES SMALL SOLAR POWER SYSTEMS, INVESTIGATION OF THE PERFORMANCE OF SOLAR HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEMS, COORDINATION OF RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ON SOLAR HEATING AND COOLING COMPONENTS, PERFORMANCE TESTING OF SOLAR COLLECTORS, DEVELOPMENT OF AN ISOLATION HANDBOOK AND INSTRUMENT PACKAGE, AND USE OF EXISTING METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION FOR SOLAR ENERGY APPLICATION.

7. ERDA, AFTER FURTHER STUDY, WILL MAKE A DECISION ON TOPIC AREAS WHERE SPECIAL TECHNICAL FACTORS MAKE BILATERAL COOPERATION PREFERABLE AND WILL SUGGEST THAT DETAILS OF PROPOSED COOPERATION BE DEVELOPED BY JOINT ERDA CNRS COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY SECTION III OF ERDA/CNRS SOLAR MOU, REF C.

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